

## **DYSLEXIA AND ME: #dyslexiability**

Dyslexiability is a concept that I came up with while typing this blog. It refers to the abilities one gains by being dyslexic. The minute I wrote it down I mentioned it on Twitter and Instagram and it went viral.

This term sums up everything that I and many others see to be the defining aspect of living with dyslexia. I excel in some areas and find other things more difficult. Having said that, I still have an IQ that is well above average. With time, reflection and support I have realised that my dyslexia comes with some excellent advantages - I have dyslexiabilities!

### **Unique way of thinking**

My dyslexiability has served me well in my career – it's allowed me to see connections and patterns in processes that others may not have seen. I can map systems, pick-up coding and IT systems with ease. I sometimes have moments when I think - 'why can't we just do it this way?!!'

Another example of how dyslexiability has benefited me in the engineering industry is how I view engineering drawings and artwork. I see them in 3D even though they are flat - my sense of space and 3D is much higher than the average so was able to pick up errors before others could.

I also remember gaining a patent for my final year university project - it was my dyslexiability (my unique thinking) that allowed me to see the correlation between two systems that I then combined to create a unique product for the medical field.

Maybe one day we can move away from dated misconceptions and start valuing the gifted minds of dyslexics for who they are. Many organisations actively seek to recruit dyslexics because they like their strategic and unique way of thinking. Perceptions are changing but it is going to take time, effort and those change agents to show the world that dyslexics can shine. After all we have spellcheckers for spelling – for unique thinking we have dyslexics!

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*In this blog series Mamta explores dyslexia and how it's affected her life and career.*